

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER.

1. The Exercise of Attention in the Development of Christian Character Phil. 4:8
2. The Christian Soldier (Xn Armor). Ephes. 6:13-18.
3. The Prophetic Element in Xn Life and Activity. Deut. 34:10.
Nu. 11:29.
4. With Jesus. Acts. 4:13.
5. The Influence of Christians. Dan. 12:3
6. Our Life in Christ. Col. 3:3-4.
7. The First Christians. Acts 11:26.
8. Christian Endurance. Matt. 10:22
9. The Training of Conscience. Acts 24:16.
10. The Xn Standard of Right Living. John 14:15.
11. Decision and Xn Character 1 Cor. 16:13

Matt. 10:22

"but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved."

THEME:- Christian Endurance.

INTRO:- Our Response to the Heroic in Life.

I. Its Spirit.

"Pluck wins! It always wins! the days be slow,
And nights be dark 'twixt days that come and go.
Still pluck will win; its average is sure,
He gains the prize who will the most endure;
Who faces issues; he who never shirks;
Who waits and watches, and who always works."

II. Its Manifestations.

1. In secular life.

- a/ the Explorers.
- b/ The Aviators--Zeppelin, Latham, Curtis, Wright Bros.
- c/ Scientific Investigators.
- d/ Life a struggle, and the brave win.

2. In the Xn Life.

- a/ Jesus the Fearless One.
- b/ The Apostles and early Xns.
- c/ Modern Missionaries.

3. Does Modern Xty appeal to the heroic?

- a/ the sedative and soothing-powder kind of Gospel.
- b/ What is the Gospel Call? to a life of ease? or to a life hardship, toil, and suffering?

I. The Gospel Call to Stand.

1. Scripture passages.

1 Cor. 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong!

Eph. 6:13 Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand!

Jas. 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life."

2. A matter of Decision, Conviction, Stability.

a/ not taken out of the world, but kept safely in it.

'1' the world like a bed of squashes, pumkins, melons, cucumbers and gourds--in one bed they mix and degenerate. Only the beet will not mix.

'2' The Xn-stand is against contamination and degeneration. Beet-Xns, not Squash-Xns.

'2' Safety only in Resistance.

Planets attracted to the sun.

1. Keep at a distance. Comet of 1882 torn to bits--went too close to the sun.

2. Keep going. Sticking to the course of their orbits.

b/ a testing process.

'1' the Kew Test of a watch.

a/ heated, frozen, put in every angle.

b/ **the** best has merited not over 92%.

'2' we should cling to God with our full strength, but we so often cling only with our weaknesses and soon let go.

*"God is everywhere having His will and He cannot be baffled. Make His business yours as did His Son."

Emerson.

II. The Gospel Call to Stand Sufferings.

1. Scripture passages.

Isaiah 53:3. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities;"

Phil.1:29 For unto you it is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake;"

~~2 Cor:11:24-28~~ Paul's sufferings.

2. Examples of Xn Sufferers.

a/ The Suffering Christ.

b/ The sufferings of Paul.

2 Cor. 11 24-28

c/ Our sufferings, have we any scars to indicate them?

The mother's scarred hand--she had rescued her child from a burning bed.

"And not only so, but we rejoice in our tribulations: knowing that tribulation worketh steadfastness; and steadfastness tried character; and tried-character, hope: and hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts thru the Holy Spirit."

III. The Gospel Call to Stand Others.

1. Scripture Passages.

Rom.14:1 But him that is weak in faith receive ye, yet not to doubtful disputations.

Rom.15:5 Now the God of Patience and of Comfort grant you to be of the same mind one to another according to Christ Jesus.

1Thess.5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren,...be patient towards all men.

Gal.6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.

2. Patience, Longsuffering, and Toleration.

a/ the lack of it among Xns.

b/ upon them depend the unity and brotherhood of humanity.

IV. The Gospel Call to Stand in Continuance.

1. Scripture Passages.

continue

Jn.8:31 If ye abide in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Jn.15:4,5,7,9. Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine; so neither can ye except ye abide in me. I am the vine and ye are the branches: he that abideth in me and I in him the same shall bear much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing. If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will and it shall be done unto you. Even as the Father hath loved me, I also have loved you; abide ye in my love."

Gal.6:9 And let us not be weary in well-doing.

Jas.1:25 But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of Liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing.

2. Continuance Xns.

a/continually standing---no interruptions.

"I would like to, but!"; "I would if I could"

Today at it, tomorrow at something else.

b/constantly standing---no change.

1. not like the train that traveled "steady by jerks".

2. not like autos run by gunpowder explosions.

not "Gunpowder-Xns", all explosion and smoke.

c/perpetually standing---no end.

"Oncers", "Has-beens".

CONCLUSION:-Let us fight the good fight; let us keep the Faith, let us continue in well-doing.

1. Not as dummy Xns. The Dummy-pipe organ.

2. But like the Madonna of the Washtub.

a/ had to support a sick husband and four children.

b/ kept constantly at it and cheerfully did all she could for Christ. A blessing to the town.

Real Struggle

Quit you like men, be strong;
There's a burden to bear,
There's a grief to share,
There's a heart that breaks beneath a load of care---
But fare ye forth with a song.

Quit you like men, be strong;
There's a battle to fight,
There's a wrong to write,
There's a God who blesses the good with might---
So fare ye forth with a song.

Quit you like men, be strong;
There's a work to do,
There's a world to make new,
There's a call for men who are brave and true---
On! with a song!

Quit you like men, be strong;
There's a year of grace,
There's a God to face,
There's another heat in the great World Race---
Speed! speed with a song!